

# The Dead Horse DESPATCH

August 2009

A newsletter for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

## Dave and Barb... "Pennys From Heaven"

With today's current economy, who would ever have thought that two "pennys" could provide so much for one park!

*"Each of us can look back upon someone who made a great difference in our lives, often a teacher or a volunteer whose wisdom or simple acts of caring made an impression. In all likelihood, it was someone who sought no recognition, but the impact of their character and kindness on our lives was heroic". —(Stephen M. Wolf)*

Dave and Barbara Penny exemplify the above-mentioned quote to the nth degree. They have truly dedicated their lives to helping people, making a difference for *something* or *someone* on every step of the way. Dave and Barbara were former educators (now retired) and served on countless boards and service committees throughout their personal & professional careers. They both started volunteering at Dead Horse Ranch in September of 2006 and have served in a variety of capacities including: campground hosting, maintenance, clerical work, above and beyond customer service, irrigation, landscaping, and various special events including Verde River Days and the Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival. Dave & Barbara's endless enthusiasm has been instrumental to the overall success of DHRSP. Not just in service hours, but in fellowship as well. It just makes good "cents" to have them here!

*Pennys submitted by Nan Hephner Article submitted by Ranger Eric*

## Mountain Biking 101



*Randy, we will be forever grateful for what you taught those boys. Eddie Lopez, assist. principal, Magma Ranch K-8*

On Thursday, June 17th, Ranger Randy Victory (National Mountain Bike Patrol certification #27694), had an opportunity to present Basic Mountain Biking to Troop 6617 Varsity Scouts. The troop leader, Eddie Lopez, had contacted him a month earlier about helping the scouts get the mountain biking pin. To get the pin, the 14-16-year-old scouts had to complete a minimum 5-mile mountain bike ride. The 5 1/2 hour class included 2+ hours of basic instruction, followed by a 3+ hour ride around the Thumper Loop, which is a little over 7 miles long. Class started at 6:30 am. Randy talked to the kids about bikes over breakfast. The 2 hour basic instruction portion included sections on Helmets & Gloves, ABC Quick Check, Bike Fit, Equipment, Trail Etiquette, and the Basics of Bike Handling. During the instruction, it was discovered that many of the bikes were in need of major repair, so Randy spent about 45 minutes whipping the bikes into shape. They also spent quite a bit of time going over the rules of the trail. Then the fun began. The scouts quickly discovered what a strenuous sport mountain biking is. Although one kid, Austin, turned out to be a powerful climber, most found themselves pushing their bikes up the hills. When we got to the downhills, a couple of the more fearless kids bombed down the trail like pros. A couple of others, including one of the leaders, flew over the bars. But the injuries were minor - mostly scrapes & cuts - and the kids had awesome stories to tell when they got back to camp! They even invited Randy back to their camp for lunch. What a great day. Randy has another class with Troop 30 in late November and he said, "I can hardly wait!"

*submitted by Ranger Randy Victory*

# Volunteer News

## Coming & Goings

- \* Tom & Pam Sanor are heading out to Zion NP, UT, Aug 14th.
- \* Bob & Toni Mann leave in mid-August to be with their son.
- \* John & Pat Pauly (Cabin Hosts) are leaving August 31st, to volunteer at Red Rock SP (Rumor has it they might still come to Happy Hour on Thursdays).

## August Milestones

(Birthdays & Anniversaries)

- 4-Sandra Nelson
- 12-John & Pat (1986)
- 15-Sharon Munson
- 19-Pat Pauly
- 22-Dave Penny
- 24-Robert & Sandy Nelson (1987)
- 25-Randy Victory - BIG 50!!!!
- 25-Betty Wolters
- 27-John Hoopes

## Dates to Remember

### August

- 3 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 17 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 31 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

## Who Knows This One?



*We received the July newsletter and thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you! We are enjoying Show Low and the White mountains this summer. There have been some very nice rains and everything is blooming and green. I volunteer at Fool Hollow S. P. while we are here. Glad to see Eric is continuing the healing process. Hello to everyone from us. Bud & Loma Jenkins*

## Colorado Hi!

*In this picture we were at treeline at 12,000 feet, on West Spanish Peak and it was cooler up there. Climbed up through a beautiful bristlecone pine forest with trees hundreds of years old. You can see why we love Colorado and our Colorado State Park. It was a 7-mile hike, but well worth it! Have to go back soon and see if the wild strawberries are bearing fruit! It was only 1600 feet to the top, but given the thunder storm that was moving in, we opted to descend – quickly. Sure looking forward to seeing you and all our other friends at Dead Horse, on November 1st.*

*Nan & Norm Hephner*



*Thanks for sending the news. It is nice to still know who some of the people are. We are leaving here, Glorieta, NM, the 28th. Our daughter (who had the transplant in 1991) is not doing too well now. We were able to get into City of Rocks (which is near her) for a short time this summer, so we are going there now to be closer to her. Hello to everyone! Sue Neal*

*We enjoy the Dispatch very much. It is great to keep up with all the happenings. We have had rain, rain, rain, since we got back to the Colorado high country. However, we have had enough sunshine that the wild flowers are "as high as an elephant's eye." There is still snow on the high peaks and Trail Ridge Road is closed about every other day. The Farmers Almanac says it will start warming up the middle of July, so we are waiting in breathless anticipation. We are looking forward to seeing you all November 1st.*

*Jim & Maryan (Pharo) Harris*

*We have enjoyed the news in the Dispatch these last couple of years. We have settled in Tuscon after 9 years of travel, many of those months being at Dead Horse, which will always have a soft spot in our hearts. Burt is volunteering at Catalina State Park... another great Arizona park. Thank you, Burt & Kathy Appling*

## Last Month's Who Knows This One?



*The winner is...*

*Bill Lefleur*

*Could you please send me a picture of the bird to be identified in a format that I can process and enlarge it? I want to play with it and see if I can make an identification of it just for the fun of it.*

*Thanks...Goonie Bill Lefleur*

**\*\* Vermillion Flycatcher\*\***

## Pam Sanor's Real "Moving" Experience.

Last night Pam's dog, Zion, was let out to do his business. Shortly thereafter Pam went to remove Zion's creation ... however, "it" moved (Zion's creation rhymes with "it" by the way). Well it turned out that Zion pooped directly onto a toad!! Pam said it was a real "moving" experience. Apparently the toad has since vacated the park. He said he wasn't going to put up with anymore crap from the volunteers.

*thank you, Ranger Eric*

*I am now located at my summer stint on Bear Lake, Fish Haven, Idaho. It is really a beautiful place to spend the summer, (and even get paid), but it's not the same as being with all "My Buds" at DHRSP. I'm impressed with the photo of the Dead Horse, loved it Joan... Eric, really I think you even outdid me with that number on your hand, glad it's coming along nicely. Look forward to returning in the Fall. Fondly, Laurie Blitsch*

## Wild Food and Flowers Workshops With Patty West

*July 25th- Wild Food Walk- 10 am to 1 pm- Flagstaff Urban Trail. Suggested donation \$20*

*August 27th- Wild Food Cooking Class- 6-8:30 pm- at the Seasoned Kitchen in Flagstaff- Cost - \$35 - posted after July 1st at [www.seasonedkitchenaz.com](http://www.seasonedkitchenaz.com)*

*September 5th- Wild Food Walk- 9 am -12 noon- Cottonwood, AZ. Suggested donation \$20*

*For more information, to register for classes, or schedule an appointment please call Patty West at 928-607-3162 or email [paw3333@yahoo.com](mailto:paw3333@yahoo.com)*



*The winner is...*

*Doug Palosaari.*

*It's a Holly Hock. We used to have them grow wild in Houghton, MI, where I grew up. We would catch bees in the flowers by quickly closing the flower petals around the unsuspecting bee. Shake it up a bit and then let the bee loose... It was fun to see the bee fly around in all directions totally disoriented. Also, I had a distant cousin named Holly... we always called her Holly Hock.*

*That's my story and I'm sticken to it.*

*<http://picasaweb.google.com/douglas.palosaari>*

*<http://rovingreportsbydoug.blogspot.com/>*